

MISSOURI

CONSERVATIONIST

May
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Issue 5



Thank You, Partners!

Partnerships are mutually beneficial relationships between groups and individuals with common interests and concerns.

In the conservation world partnerships are the norm, and in Missouri they have been an essential way of business for decades. For example, the Conservation Department partnered with landowners in the restoration of white-tailed deer, wild turkeys and other important wildlife species. We continue to partner with landowners as a way to improve habitats and wildlife populations.

Partners can achieve more than could ever be accomplished if each worked alone. For example, the pooled resources of the Department of Conservation, federal agencies, Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Missouri Prairie Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Quail Unlimited, Ruffed Grouse Society, Missouri Waterfowl Association, private citizens, corporations, foundations, and many others have protected and restored thousands of acres of habitat, improved the status of Missouri's wildlife and yielded great places for Missourians to watch birds, hike, hunt, fish and view nature.

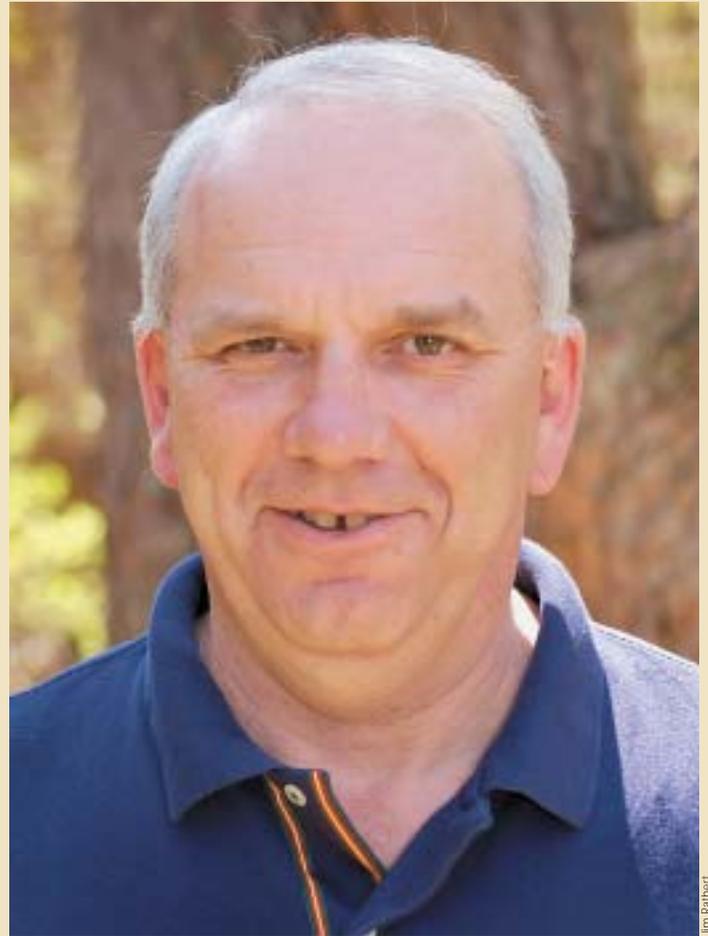
Partnerships create understanding. Former Wildlife Research Superintendent Bill Crawford often said, "folks tend to be down on the things they're not up on."

Partnerships require communication. They ensure we're "up on" the perspectives of our partners. A good example of fruitful partnering is the unique relationship of the Audubon Society of Missouri and Ruffed Grouse Society in promoting habitats for forest birds. Another example is The Grassland Coalition, which brings together Quail Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, the Missouri Prairie Foundation and others to protect and restore the native grasslands that once covered much of our state.

Partnerships create a strength of unity. A partnership of conservation interests established the modern Department of Conservation in 1936. Yet another, in 1976, added the one-eighth of one percent conservation sales tax to fund conservation work.

Partnerships exist in the internal architecture of strong organizations. They are clearly an expectation of Missouri Conservation Commission and our agency's leadership. We call them teams in the Department of Conservation, and they exist at all levels. These internal partnerships enhance effectiveness and promote understanding.

Partnerships are a vital part of conservation in Missouri. Not all states or federal agencies have them.



Though we rely on them so often, we never fail to recognize the contributions that partnerships make to the conservation effort. The Conservation Department relies on and values the the work and support of other agencies, outdoor clubs and organizations, user groups, private landowners and the people of Missouri.

Thank you partners!

Dave Erickson, Wildlife Division Administrator

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Photograph by Jim Rathert

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MARCH FLIES

I enjoyed your picture of the mayfly in the March issue. In 1955, I was inducted into the military at Camp Perry, Ohio, during the spring. In late May and early June, the mayflies were so thick that businesses put up black curtains to discourage them. The highways would become slick as ice, and the flies would clog automobile air cleaners. They didn't really hurt anything, but they were a nuisance.

Up there, the mayflies were called Canadian Soldiers. The wings on them were green, as opposed to the dark wings of the specimen in your picture.

Bill Haase, Salem

STRANGER IDENTIFIED

I want to tell you how glad I was to see the March front cover. I have been trying for about two months to identify a strange-looking and strange-acting bird



Good Neighbors

Missy Blanford of Potosi was watering her flower garden last summer, when she heard a noise around the base of a plant. She raised the bottom leaves to find a fence lizard laying eggs. Later in the summer, she found numerous baby fence lizards in her garden.

that I found in my back yard.

The bird hid among the fallen leaves in our yard, and it was there for about two or three days. I thought it might be hurt because it preferred to hide rather than fly away. However, the last time I saw this bird was when I came too close and it did fly away. I've never seen it again or any other bird quite like it until I looked at your front cover.

At first I thought I might be mistaken about my identification of the bird until I read it is found in Missouri—particularly when woodcocks migrate back to Missouri in February or March.

No one else in my family saw this bird, and I think they thought I was seeing things. It is true that this is the first woodcock I have ever seen.

Marilyn Starks, Sikeston

WILDLIFE ADDITION

This morning, I was walking around my lake on my property near Blackwater on the Lamine River.

All in a span of about 30 minutes, I saw 14 deer in a field next to our house, 20-plus turkeys in the same field, two bald eagles on the river in a tree, two beavers in the lake, six geese and one opossum. That animal comes every night to eat the cat food.

These numbers are typical for almost every day. Thank you for what you have done for the state!

Benton Fox, Blackwater

TRACTOR TALE

In 1949, my family moved to a farm just inside the Pike County line and west of Gazette, a small country town with a store, post office and blacksmith shop. After hearing booming sounds the day before, we hid one morning in the hedge tree row to see if we could see what was making the noise. In a short time, we saw at least a hundred prairie chickens in front of us. The male birds were strutting and making booming sounds.

In the spring of 1950, we stood and watched over our north fence line as two tractors plowed up a section of prairie grass. The prairie chickens flushed all day as the tractors plowed. Within a couple years, we no longer heard any more booming.

Larry Hendricks, Montgomery City

FISHING FIRST

I would like to thank you for your letter, the picture and the First Fish Certificate you sent to my daughter in January.

It came just in time for my daughter to take it to "Show and Tell" and share it with her third-grade classmates. She was very proud. It definitely brought back some exciting memories for her, as it really was her "first fish."

I realize the First Fish program must be an effort that takes time and money, and I think it is wonderful that there are resources for a program like this.

Andrea Rueckerl, Carl Junction

OVERSEAS DUTY

I grew up in Arnold, but learned to hunt and fish at my grandparents' 40-acre farm in Harviell.

I am currently serving in Iraq, and one of the things that helps me get through this deployment is the copy of the *Missouri Conservationist* that my mother sends me each month. I brag to other soldiers about Missouri's great conservation agency that works with private landowners to preserve our ecosystems for future generations.

The whole magazine is great, but the part I most enjoy is "Reflections." It lets me look into other Missourians' lives and see how the great outdoors has changed or shaped their way of life.

T. Chilton, Sgt. U.S. Army

RISK TAKING

I've enjoyed your publication for years, but as a retired construction safety consultant, I feel I should point out some safety concerns in the pictures

accompanying your January article about building a dugout canoe.

On page 21 and 22, the men working on the canoe are not using the face, eye or foot protection recommended in the text. The photo on page 21 shows a man swinging an adze while wearing

only moccasins on his feet.

A good demonstration should include teaching the use of personal protective equipment and safe working procedures. Safety equipment can only prevent injuries if it is used.

John H. Wheeler, St. Paul, Missouri

The letters printed here reflect readers' opinions about the Conservationist and its contents. Space limitations prevent us from printing all letters, but we welcome signed comments from our readers. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Ask the Ombudsman



Q. We have a beautiful sweetgum tree in our yard. The foliage is stunning in the fall, but the "gum balls" that fall from the tree are a real nuisance. We rake and bag for days. I've heard about a chemical that will get rid of them. What can you tell me about it?

A. Your local lawn and garden center should be able to provide you with information about Florel® Fruit Eliminator.

There's also helpful information from the University Extension web site, <<http://muextension.missouri.edu/explore/qa/horticulture0001.htm>>.

Another possibility would be to keep raking the fruit capsules and use them as mulch around your trees. Some folks have also found some creative uses for the fruit capsules in craft projects.

Q. Can I hunt mushrooms on conservation areas?

A. Chapter 11 of the *Wildlife Code* covers special regulations on department areas. For details please see <www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp>.

Here's an excerpt that addresses foraging:

3 CSR 10-11.135 Wild Plants, Plant Products, and Mushrooms

(1) Nuts, berries, fruits, edible wild greens and mushrooms may be taken only for personal consumption, unless further restricted in this chapter.

(A) On Conservation Commission Headquarters, Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center, Runge Conservation Nature Center and Springfield Conservation Nature Center, taking of nuts, berries, fruits, edible wild greens and mushrooms is prohibited.

(B) On Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area and Rockwoods Reservation, taking of nuts, berries, fruits and edible wild greens is prohibited.

(C) On areas designated by the Conservation Commission as Missouri Natural Areas, taking edible wild greens is prohibited.

Please note that root collecting is prohibited by another portion of Chapter 11 which forbids digging.

Ombudsman Ken Drenon will respond to your questions, suggestions or complaints concerning Conservation Department programs. Write him at P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180, call him at 573/522-4115, ext. 3848, or e-mail him at <Ken.drenon@mdc.mo.gov>.

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Stash Your Trash

Keep Missouri streams clean. Stash it... Don't Toss It

Reusable litter bag

Recycle when you can



Missouri Department of Conservation

Adopt your favorite stream through Missouri Stream Team! Call 1-800-781-1989. It's free and it's fun!

Stash That

by Chris Riggert
photos by Cliff White

TRASH!

Small, red mesh bags keep tons of litter from Missouri's floatable streams.

On a gorgeous day in May, you're floating a sparkling Missouri stream, fishing for smallmouth bass, enjoying the wildlife you see and just generally enjoying yourself. Amid the excitement, you get thirsty and pull a soda from your cooler.

If you rented your canoe from one of the float outfitters that participate in the Stash Your Trash! program, you were probably given a red mesh trash bag. This is the perfect place to put your empty drink containers, and for collecting trash that others have thoughtlessly left behind.



Stash Your Trash bags help keep our waterways clean.

The Missouri Department of Conservation recently began the No MOre Trash! program to help reduce the amount of litter in the state. While the No MOre Trash! program addresses littering in general, *Stash Your Trash* specifically targets trash on Missouri's streams. It is administered through the Conservation Department's Missouri stream unit and the Stream Team Program.

Long before *Stash Your Trash* began, a few liveries were providing plastic bags to floaters. In the early 1980s, float outfitters Gene Maggard and Gary Smith, concession specialist Dean Einwalter from the U.S. National Park Service, and two representatives from Anheuser-Busch, Inc., met in Ironton to discuss organizing a stream anti-littering program. Anheuser-Busch donated \$5,000 to start the project.

In 1986, The National Park Service, Anheuser-Busch and the float outfitters on the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers launched Operation Clean Stream, a pilot project to reduce stream litter on a 20-mile section of the Current River, from Akers Ferry to Round Spring. Every canoe livery in the pilot area provided a free, orange nylon mesh trash sack to every rented canoe. During the pilot project, 18 tons of trash was collected, including 1,100 pounds of aluminum. The aluminum cans were collected from bins and sold by the Three Rivers Handi-

"The Stash Your Trash bags help a great number of considerate people enjoy a day on the river without leaving anything harmful behind."

cap Sheltered Workshop in Eminence.

John Hoskins, director of the Missouri Department of Conservation, was the Ozark Region Protection Supervisor at that time. He proposed that the Department of Conservation implement the program on the North Fork, Eleven Point, Big Piney, Black, Gasconade and other rivers. Hoskins believed that expanding the program would produce cleaner streams. He believed it would increase public awareness about the need for litter control.

"People go out on the river with the best intentions," Hoskins said. "They don't want to hurt anything, but they're not prepared. They'll go all day collecting their trash carefully, not throwing anything into the river. But if their canoe turns over, out goes all the trash. They can't get it back."



Stream clean-up teams usually pick up the big stuff, while The *Stash Your Trash* program keeps paper, bottles and cans from accumulating in our waterways.

Hoskins said today's canoeists seem to be more conservation-minded than in the past.

"The *Stash Your Trash* bags help a great number of considerate people enjoy a day on the river without leaving anything harmful behind," he said.

In 1987, the Conservation Commission approved a pilot anti-littering program on the Meramec River, Huzzah Creek, Courtois Creek, and Gasconade River. This program was tied to the Conservation Department's 50th Anniversary and ran from April 1 through Labor Day.

The Conservation Department purchased 110,000 trash bags, which Conservation Agents



Recreational canoeists and volunteer river clean-up crews fill thousands of trash bags each year.

THE HIGH COST OF LITTER by Ginny Wallace

Whether you're hunting, fishing, canoeing or hiking, litter can spoil any outdoor experience. The people of Missouri are having to spend extra time and money to keep from being overwhelmed by litter.

The impact of litter extends beyond what can be measured in dollars. Foam cups and empty cans attract raccoons, opossums, snakes and other wildlife, and some animals get their heads stuck inside. Animals have tangled themselves in the six-pack plastic rings used to hold beverage cans.

Monofilament line is especially dangerous to wildlife. Most monofilament biodegrades very slowly. Because it's thin and often clear, birds and other animals can easily become tangled in it and may become injured, drown or starve to death. When birds use monofilament line in their nests, their chicks may fatally entangle themselves.

Cigarette filters look like cotton, but they are made of cellulose acetate, a long-lasting plastic. Chemicals in cigarette filters, as well as in the tobacco portion of the cigarette, leach into water and are toxic to some aquatic organisms. Because they are small and lightweight, rainwater easily transports the cigarette filters into our rivers, lakes and ponds.

In Missouri, littering is a Class A misdemeanor with a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or a year in jail. At conservation areas, signs posted in every parking lot inform visitors of the fines for littering. In a few areas, glass food and beverage containers are banned.

Conservation agents patrol areas regularly and issue tickets for littering. In 2002, they wrote 261 tickets and recovered more than \$14,000 in fines and court costs. Unfortunately, the fines don't come close to covering the cost of littering to Missouri taxpayers.

The Missouri Department of Transportation spends nearly \$6 million each year on litter pick up. Adopt-A-Highway groups contribute about \$1 million worth of effort.



In 2002, the departments of Conservation and Transportation teamed up to launch a litter prevention program entitled *No MORE Trash!* The thrust of the program is to educate people about the destructive impact and high cost of littering.

Littering is a problem we can solve. Here are a few things you can do to make a difference:

- Remove items from your boat and pickup bed that can blow out onto roadways.
- Retrieve lost or broken monofilament line and six-pack rings.
- Take along a trash bag to dispose of your trash, then take it home.
- Don't throw items in outdoor privies that might interfere with pumping out the tanks.
- Don't leave fish parts on boat ramps or near streams. If you clean fish near the water, wrap the guts and carcasses and dispose of them in trash containers.
- When you hunt, pick up spent cartridges.
- Let your friends know you don't approve of littering—make it socially unacceptable.

For more information on what you can do, visit the *No MORE Trash!* website <www.nomoretrash.org>.



Volunteer Stream Teams keep many of our waterways clean.

STREAM TEAMS

The Stream Team Program is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and the Conservation Federation of Missouri. Nearly 50,000 volunteers are members of 2,500 Teams in Missouri.

Stream Teams provide an opportunity for everyone to get involved in river conservation. For more information about Missouri's Stream Team program, check out the Stream Team website at www.mostreamteam.org, send an e-mail to streamteam@mo.mdc.gov, or call the Stream Team voice-mail at 800/781-1989.

More than 100 float outfitters participating in the *Stash Your Trash* Program offer a discount to Stream Teams. These discounts are available to Teams renting canoes to perform Stream Team activities, such as litter pickups and water quality monitoring. A list of these and all canoe liveries can be found on the Missouri Department of Conservation web site through the fishing page, www.missouriconservation.org/fish/.

distributed to participating float outfitters. The program worked so well that agents and float outfitters recommended expanding it to include all major float streams in southern Missouri. In 1988, the *Stash Your Trash* went statewide.

In 1997, the Missouri Stream Team Program began buying the bags to give to Stream Teams for their litter pickups. In 1999, the Stream Team Program was given full administrative responsibility for the *Stash Your Trash* program and its characteristic red mesh bags. It was a perfect fit. They provided the bags to float outfitters who, in turn, encouraged canoeists to use them. Rather than being dumped into streams, trash found its way into bins at takeout points. Much of it was recycled.

Bob Burns operates the Niangua River Oasis near Lebanon. During some of the early clean-ups on the Niangua, Burns said participants brought in tires and even a soda pop machine. Thanks to conscientious floaters, the river is in much better shape now than it was, but Burns said there's still plenty of room for improvement.

"Most of what we see now are cans and coolers, the kind of thing that folks have in their canoes with them," Burns said.

"*Stash Your Trash* is a wonderful program," he said. "Each Saturday we pick up two to three pickup loads of trash that the floaters have picked up along the way. That's between 100 and 150 pickup loads of trash each year that would otherwise end up in the Niangua River."

Having the bags aboard seems to encourage floaters to look for litter to fill them. Delores Swoboda, operator of Devil's Back Floats on the Bourbeuse River said, "Not only are floaters picking up their own trash, they are picking up trash others have left behind."

Gene Maggard operates the Jacks Fork, Akers Ferry, Round Spring, and Wild River canoe rentals on the Jacks Fork and Current rivers. He said floaters collect tons of trash from these famous rivers every year.

"We've seen everything," Maggard said, "from tires to steel traps to false teeth!"

Last year, the Stream Team Program provided more than 250,000 bags to almost 125 float outfitters and hundreds of Stream Teams. These bags helped keep an estimated 1,000 tons of trash out of Missouri's rivers in 2003, alone.

Next time you are enjoying one of Missouri's beautiful streams, *Stash Your Trash* in the familiar red mesh bag provided by your outfitter. Make sure you tie the reusable bag to the canoe strut so your trash won't float downstream if you overturn. ▲







After a single fishing trip, your child may be hooked.

“Daddy, I got one!”

by Marvin Boyer
photos by Cliff White

Catching his or her first fish is one of a child's greatest thrills. It's every bit equal to that of the first solo bike ride, hitting a homerun, or jumping off the school bus after the first day at school. For many children, that first fish is the beginning of a lifelong love affair.

Usually all it takes to get a child hooked on fishing is one fun experience. Fishing naturally attracts most children, but you can help make their first fishing trip more successful and more enjoyable.

Patience

Patience is the golden ingredient in all teaching, but it's especially important with a task that requires hand/eye coordination and involves something that tangles as much as

fishing line. You'll need all the patience you can muster to deal with twisted or knotted lines, snags, spilled tackle boxes, dropped sandwiches, spilled drinks, dumped minnow buckets and other mishaps. Some, or all, of these things happen eventually on almost every fishing trip with children, so resign yourself to them and be patient.

Maintaining a cheerful attitude will go a long way toward keeping the outing pleasant for a child. On the other

hand, any frustration you show might ruin the experience and discourage the child from wanting to go again.

If you want your child to catch fish and have fun, don't even take a rod and reel for yourself. You will be too busy to fish.

When teaching a child to fish, your goals are different than when you're fishing alone or with friends. With a child, the goal is for the child to want to fish again. Don't worry about catching enough for a fish fry or catching trophy fish. These things will all come later. For a kid, a fish is a fish. Keep it simple and measure your success by smiles and by the memories the trip creates.

Attention Span

When planning a fishing trip, parents should consider a child's short attention span and need for variety. Don't take long trips or fish for species that can't be predictably caught. Try to time the trips to coincide with when the fish bite best. Usually this is early in the day or very late in the day. On summer mornings, you can fish a few hours until the sun makes it too hot, or you can plan a trip in the evening until it gets dark.

Otherwise, think about short trips with definite quitting times. For example, you might go fishing before going to church or to grandma's for lunch. As a rule, try to quit fishing before the kids get bored.

Preparation

Prepare the kids for fishing by giving them a little backyard practice with a casting plug. You can make a game of it by putting out hula hoops or garbage cans for targets. Kids will catch on to casting quickly, and you won't have to train them in that basic skill at the fishing hole. Practice also builds anticipation. It makes kids eager to go fishing.

Make sure you pack snacks, drinks, sunscreen, bug spray, personal flotation devices and proper tackle. Most kids would love to have



a little tackle box of their own. Stock it with with basic items, including bobbers, split shot and #6 panfish hooks, which are perfect for catching sunfish or catfish. For usually less than \$20, you can buy them their own fishing rod and reel. Look for a light- to medium-weight rod with a push-button spinning reel. These are the easiest reels to learn to cast.

Plan on using live bait. It usually results in more success than artificial lures, plus kids love the idea of catching bait. They can dig for worms in leaf piles or chase crickets or grasshoppers. Show them how to dip a fine-mesh net into the water to catch frogs, minnows, crayfish and water bugs, which are plentiful at most fishing holes.

Where to go?

Take kids to a comfortable and scenic fishing spot with lots of eager fish. Private farm ponds and subdivision lakes often have grassy banks and good fish populations. If the landowner feeds the fish, catching them is all but guaranteed. Wading small rivers or large streams is also

very enjoyable. The fish tend to be naïve, and the scenery is beautiful.

Public waters managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation are available in every county. They are usually well maintained and offer good fishing. In fact, Kids Fishing Clinics, sponsored by the Conservation Department, take place on many Department areas. At these clinics, Department employees and volunteers teach basic fishing skills and provide general assistance to the kids. To improve the fishing, the lakes used for the clinics are stocked with hybrid sunfish and channel catfish.

The Conservation Department also offers conservation and outdoor recreation programs to students in all grade levels. These aquatic education programs combine local ecology and conservation principles with angling and other aquatic outdoor skills and ethics. The programs are always free of charge. If you are a teacher or youth group leader, contact the conservation education consultant at your local Department office for more information. ▲



Kids Fishing Opportunities by Region

Call regional Conservation Department offices for more details

St. Louis Region 636/441-4554

Resource	Area Name	County	Date	Notes
Lake 12	August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area	St. Charles	Year-round	Open to public 15 and under
Kids Fishing Fair	August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area	St. Charles	3rd Saturday in May	Annual event open to public-Free
Kids Fishing Day	Maramec Spring	Phelps	May 15	Annual event open to public-Free

Kansas City Region 816/655-6250

Resource	Area Name	County	Date	Notes
Blue Springs Lake Disabled Angler Clinic	Blue Springs Lake Marina	Jackson	The Saturday of Free Fishing Weekend	Open to disabled anglers of all ages. Anglers must pre-register
Lion's Lake	Warrensburg City Park	Johnson	1st Saturday in June	Annual event open to public-Free
Honker Pond	James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area	Jackson	Year-round	Open to public 15 and under
Kids Fishing Fair	James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area	Jackson	1st Saturday after Mother's Day	Annual event open to public-Free
National Hunting and Fishing Day	James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area	Jackson	Last Saturday in September	Annual event open to public-Free
Conservation Day	Clinton MDC Office	Henry	2nd or 3rd weekend in May	Annual event free to kids 15 and under

Northeast Region 660/785-2420

Resource	Area Name	County	Date	Notes
Tom Sawyer Lake	Mark Twain State Park	Monroe	June 12	9am-12am, poles available-573/565-3440
Henderson Lake	Indian Creek Recreation Area-Mark Twain Lake	Monroe	June 12	Call 573/735-4097 for details

Northwest Region 816/271-3100

Resource	Area Name	County	Date	Notes
3rd Annual Crappie Festival	Pony Express Conservation Area	DeKalb	2nd or 3rd Saturday in May	Annual Event open to the public. Free. Call 816/271-3100 for details
Special Event Pond	Poosey Conservation Area	Livingston	Scheduled Events	Call 660/646-6122 for details
Special Event Pond	Hartell Conservation Area	Clinton	Scheduled Events	Call 816/271-3100 for details

Central Region 573/884-6861

Resource	Area Name	County	Date	Notes
Special Event Pond	Manito Lake Conservation Area	Moniteau	Scheduled	Call for reservations
Cromley Pond	Blind Pony Conservation Area	Saline	Open year-round	Open to public 15 and under
Raccoon Run Spur Pond	Runge Conservation Nature Center	Cole	Contact Runge for Scheduled special events	
Leroy Rottman Memorial Kids Fishing Clinic	Cosmo Bethel Lake	Boone	Free Fishing Saturday	Annual event free to public

Ozark Region 417/256-7161

Resource	Area Name	County	Date	Notes
Kids Fishing Day	Montauk Hatchery & State Park	Dent	May 15	6:30 a.m. - 8:15 p.m.
Kids Fishing Day	Maramec Spring Hatchery & Park	Phelps	May 15	6:30 a.m. - 8:15 p.m.
Doniphan Police Department Fishing Clinic	Private Pond	Ripley	June 9	Open to kids age 5-15, limited to first 50. Lunch provided. Call 573/996-7123.

Southwest Region 417/895-6880

Resource	Area Name	County	Date	Notes
Kids Fishing Day	Bennett's Spring Hatchery and State Park	Dallas	May 15	6:30 a.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Southeast Region 573/290-5730

Resource	Area Name	County	Date	Notes
Kids Fishing Weekend	Combs Lake	Dunklin Co.	TBA	Contact Eric Heuring 573/717-1042

Some Like it Wet

Each spring, salamanders migrate to ephemeral pools for the breeding season. By Rod Doolen

My son really knows how to party! For his tenth birthday, for example, he asked me to take him and some of his friends for a romp through some salamander pools. I was glad to comply. Outdoor excursions are a lot more fun, and a lot less expensive, than video games, and besides, I enjoy stomping through the mud as much as he does.

It was a warm March day with a light wind. The trees were still bare. Our destination was a 20-acre field that held four ephemeral pools. Ephemeral pools are shallow, temporary bodies of water that appear in both lowland and upland areas during spring. They are shallower than ponds but bigger than puddles. The four pools in this particular field are important habitat components for seven amphibian species.

All of these species need shelter. At the first pool we turned over wooden slabs and small tree trunks that had been placed in the pool to make hiding places for salamanders. Boy, did we find a lot of them! Wading through shallow water pools and watching wildlife was a great way to spend time with my son and his friends.

These shallow pools did not exist three years before our trip. They are products of wetland habitat improvement projects on land managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation.



Smaller than ponds but bigger than puddles, ephemeral pools provide breeding habitat for many reptiles and amphibians.



Jim Rathert

Spotted salamander

Wetlands have been altered, destroyed and generally reduced all across the country. People seldom consider that shallow pools could be important wildlife habitat so they fill them with earth or dig them out deeper. Thousands of ephemeral pools, along with their benefits to plant and wildlife species, have disappeared.

A large variety of plants and animals use these pools. Salamanders, frogs, toads, wetland plants, reptiles, deer, turkey, quail and many other species, including herons and ducks, take advantage of ephemeral pools.

Fortunately, for all of these species, small, shallow, ephemeral pools can be restored or created with little effort.

First a location for a pool must be identified. Topographical maps can be a big help in identifying low sites. Depressions or old stream channels noted on maps may be excellent places for pools.

Ideal locations are low spots in fields or pastures that tend to hold standing water during rains. Seeing where and how the water acts after a rain is one of the best

ways to locate potential sites. The amount of water accumulating in an area and the direction it flows are important to know when planning a pool.

The amount of time water stands in a spot indicates the soil's ability to hold water after the pool is built. The direction water flows will indicate how dirt should be moved to avoid altering the natural flow of water. It's also important to know which way the water flows if you need to build a berm or small levee. However, many times levees are not needed when building ephemeral pools. Simply scooping out a low site may make a fine pool.

Ephemeral pools don't need much runoff water. The best locations are those that catch and hold water. If a series of pools is planned, connecting them will be important for water flow.

Try to build ephemeral pools near fencerows or blocks of forest so that salamanders and other slow-moving creatures can visit them without exposing themselves to predators.

Another indicator of a good pool site is vegetation. The types of vegetation present in an area can tell you whether a particular location is suitable for a pool. Smartweed, bulrushes, sedges and many other wetland plant species will grow in moist sites that provide adequate habitat for the kinds of creatures that colonize ephemeral pools. The boundaries of these areas are often clearly defined by where wetland vegetation stops and upland vegetation begins.



American toad tadpole

The topography or lay of the land, also marks where the pool may expand and contract. Pools wrap around higher ground to make points, and extend up into small "valleys." The varied contours of the shoreline provide a diversity of habitat. The floor of the pool should be irregular, not flat. This provides a mix of water depths for a variety of creatures.

Once a pool site has been located and the potential boundaries defined, construction can begin. Building

pools usually requires machinery. A tractor outfitted with a blade may be all you need to form a pool, but disking will loosen the soil and make it easier to move with the blade. Thick, deep-rooted plants make it hard to move dirt with light equipment. In that case, a small to medium bulldozer may be more appropriate.

Pool size depends on the site. An average pool may be 10 to 15 feet wide and 30 to 60 feet long, and the best ones will be no more than 20 inches in depth. However, smaller or larger pools are common and also produce valuable habitat.

In some situations it might be possible to



American toad adult



Jim Rathert



Jim Rathert



Rod Doolen

Though they may disappear during dry periods, ephemeral pools (above, right) attract birds, like black-capped chickadees (above, left) and many amphibians, including gray treefrogs (upper right).

construct a series of connected pools. These would simulate a meandering stream through which water would move during periods of high water flow.

Building ephemeral pools can be fun and rewarding. Identifying possible sites, designing the pools, and doing the actual dirt work all involve being in the outdoors and accomplishing work that will benefit many species.

Be careful to avoid locations that are already functioning wetlands. If there's any doubt about the status of a site, have it checked by a resource professional, such as a private lands conservationist.

Once it is built, you can make your ephemeral pool more user friendly to salamanders, crayfish, frogs and other wetland species. They need structure for protection. Good sources of ephemeral pool structure are sawmills. Ask for slabs (edges of trees that are cut off during sawing). These provide excellent places for small creatures to get under for protection. Trees and limbs also make good structure. Almost any tree or limb will work. Just lay the structure you have available in the pool area. The critters will do the rest.

One important characteristic of ephemeral pools is the fact that they usually contain water in spring and early summer. This is when many species of wildlife bear young. By the time the pools dry in mid to late summer, the young have grown large enough to travel to other water sources.

Even after ephemeral pools dry up, plants continue to grow there. These plants provide food and shelter for the animals that use the pool once it refloods.

The pools may reflood any time it rains, but spring rains commonly fill ephemeral pools, beginning the cycle again.

When it rains in early spring, salamanders move to ephemeral pools where they can breed and lay eggs. This short migration is sometimes called "running."

Each spring, salamanders migrate across a section of road near my home. Even though our kids are older, all four of us went this spring to watch the salamanders. We saw several on the road and 21 in a small ephemeral pool.

It wasn't on his birthday this year, but we still had a great time! ▲

It's a Runge Conservation Nature Center tops the list of places to visit in Jefferson City. *By Kathy Cavender, Photos by Cliff White*

CAPITAL IDEA

Where can you go in the Capital City to see a tallgrass prairie, a marsh or a glade? You can experience all of these wild habitats

and much more at Runge Conservation Nature Center. Since the Runge Conservation Nature Center opened in 1993, more than a million people have visited Jefferson



City's urban oasis. According to the Jefferson City Convention and Visitors Bureau, Runge is the most visited attraction in Jefferson City.

Runge Conservation Nature Center occupies 112 acres and includes a 27,000 square-foot nature center building. You will feel right at home as you walk through the front doors of the nature center into the spacious lobby. There you can sit and enjoy a crackling fire or marvel at the display of animal mounts, including the world-record, non-typical deer antlers that came from a Missouri deer.

Every other month you will see a new conservation-

In honor of **G. ANDY RUNGE** *(1930-1991)*



Andy Runge contributed a lifetime of effort to the field of conservation. The following are a few of the highlights of the life of one of the greatest conservationists in Missouri's history.

- 1970 – 73—President of the Missouri Prairie Foundation
- 1973 – 79—Missouri Conservation Commissioner
- 1978—Conservationist of the Year by Conservation Federation of Missouri
- 1982 – 83—President of the Missouri Prairie Foundation
- 1986 – 88—President of Conservation Federation of Missouri
- 1988—Citizen Volunteer Conservation Award by Chevron U.S.A., Inc.
- 1989—Member, University of Missouri System Board of Curators

You can see

a timber rattlesnake, track a deer, listen to the booming sound of a prairie chicken, come nose to nose with a giant bullfrog, and learn how to determine the age of a fish by one of its scales.

related exhibit on display in the nature center lobby.

The lobby leads to a 3,000 square-foot exhibit space. Here you can learn about a wide variety of natural habitats in Missouri and how the Missouri Department of Conservation manages them for forest, fish and wildlife resources. You might see a timber rattlesnake, track a deer, listen to the booming sound of a prairie chicken, come nose to nose with a giant bullfrog, and learn how to determine the age of a fish by one of its scales.

Your adventure through the exhibits culminates with a full view of a 3,580-gallon freshwater fish aquarium that contains some of Missouri's freshwater fish species. Inhabitants of the aquarium include largemouth bass, channel catfish and some huge crappie and sunfish.

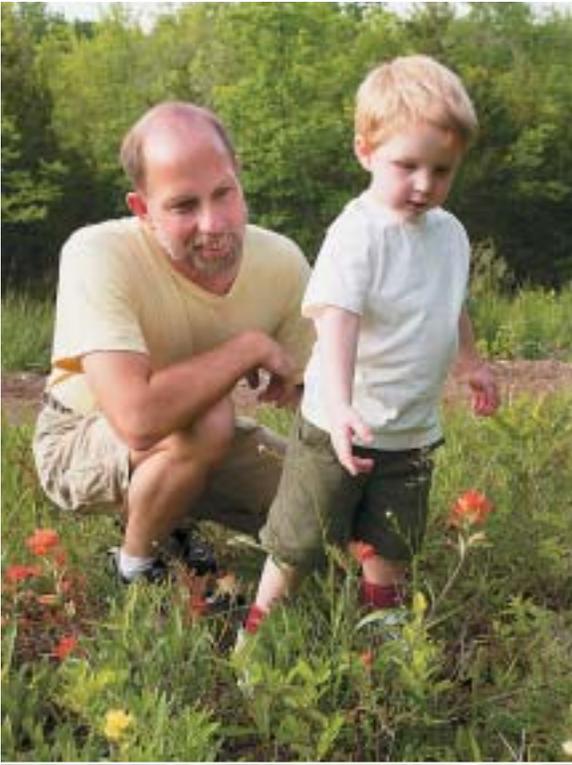
Across from the aquarium is the "Critter Corner." It features a living beehive, live animals, a puppet theatre, a magnetic wall and other hands-on activities for children.

At the wildlife viewing area you can enjoy the sights and sounds of squirrels, chipmunks, deer, chickadees and other wildlife in their natural habitat. Native Missouri plants and various feeders attract wildlife. There's also a mini-stream that winds through the area and is fed by runoff from the roof, which is covered with wooden shingles.

Other features inside the nature center building include a gift shop stocked with a wide selection of books, videos and nature-related items, a nature library with books for children and adults, a 200-seat auditorium and three classrooms.

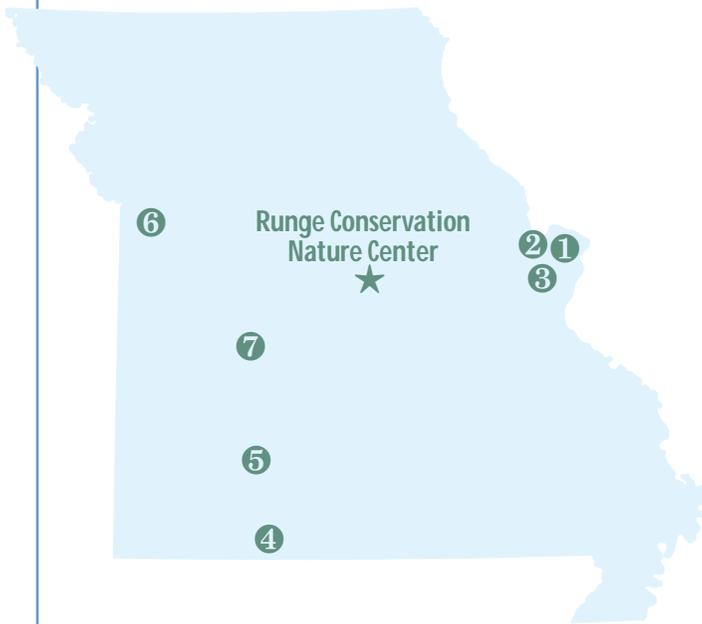
Outside are five nature trails. Walk amid indigo buntings and a variety of butterflies as you venture down Raccoon Run. This trail is the longest of the five and winds past savanna, prairie, marsh and woodland habitats. You can enjoy a grand vista of the entire Runge area atop a fire tower located near the beginning of the trail.

Bluestem Ridge is a trail of intermediate length and difficulty. It winds along the edge of the prairie and then dives into a woodland habitat. In spring, a trip along Bluestem Ridge will likely reward you with the resonant



The paved Naturescape Trail (above) allows all visitors to see a wildflower meadow and a garden pond. Natural habitats, including a glade (upper left), are scattered through the area. Fish-feeding time at the Runge aquarium (upper right) is always exciting.

More CAPITAL IDEAS



❶ **Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center** is in a quiet corner of a busy city. Leave the chaos of the urban world and escape to the 112-acre nature center located in Kirkwood.

❷ **August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area** offers 6,987 acres of important habitat for fish and wildlife in a rapidly developing area near St. Louis. The area also offers plenty of hunting and fishing opportunities.

❸ **Rockwoods Reservation** is a 1,843-acre state forest and wildlife oasis in western St. Louis County. Established in 1938, it is one of the oldest Conservation Department areas. It is known for introducing many youngsters to the basic concepts of conservation.

❹ **Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery Conservation Center**, in Branson, is one of Missouri's most popular attractions. Visitors can see giant brown and rainbow trout, hike four trails and fish for trout in the Table Rock Lake tailwaters.

❺ **Springfield Conservation Nature Center** offers the peace and quiet of an Ozark forest amid the hectic pace of the city. Here, the sounds of traffic and smells of asphalt yield to bird calls and the earthy fragrance of damp leaves.

❻ **Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center** is nestled in the center of 1,100 acres of forest, glade, prairie, ponds, open fields, creeks and savannas. Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center is located in Blue Springs.

❼ **Lost Valley Visitor Center** is at the Lost Valley Fish Hatchery at Warsaw. The center contains a number of exhibits, a 12,700-gallon aquarium, a kids fishing pond, and a close-up view of a state-of-the-art fish hatchery.

sounds of spring peepers and chorus frogs as they try to attract mates.

Moss Rock Trace will calm your anxieties with its shady feel and the sounds of water trickling through a wet-weather stream. Look for bluebells, spicebush and pawpaw trees as you cross the 180-foot boardwalk. Continue through a small glade, which is home to numerous wildflowers, including Indian paintbrush, coreopsis, coneflowers and blazing stars.

Stepping onto Towering Oak Trail brings a sense of timelessness as you discover 200-year-old white oak trees. On your Towering Oak venture you will cross several wooden bridges and trek under a canopy of oak, hickory, walnut and other spectacular trees of Missouri.

Along the Naturescape Trail you will find several examples of backyard wildlife habitat, such as a decked area with planters, a rock garden, a wildflower meadow and a garden pond. This trail is the shortest and easiest trail and is accessible to people in wheelchairs.

In addition to the building, facilities, exhibits and trails, Runge Nature Center also offers a variety of special events and activities for people of all ages. The staff often travels to community events and sets up activities for children, as well as educational exhibits for all ages. Teachers and civic leaders can contact the nature center to schedule interpretive programs for their groups. During the summer and winter, nature center programs travel to schools or other locations for people who are unable to visit the center. Special general public programs are scheduled continually throughout the year.

Since its grand opening on July 10, 1993, Runge Conservation Nature Center staff have worked hard to find new and innovative ways to connect Missourians with the outdoors.

Interpretive programs such as Frog Frenzy, AcroBats, and Reptile Rap help children have fun as they develop a healthy understanding of Missouri's natural resources. Special events such as Naturescape Symposium, Eagle Days, and Haunted Habitats provide exciting adventures for people of all ages. General public programs focus on everything from otters, to deer processing and fly-fishing, to nature quilting and hiking. They are available throughout the year.

Runge Conservation Nature Center is located on Highway 179 just minutes from the Missouri State Capitol. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. The area is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days.

When you are in Jefferson City, make it a point to come and enjoy time at Runge. It's a CAPITAL idea! ▲



A teen-age volunteer helps Conservation Kids Club members collect insects for study (upper left). Kids inside an air-filled bubble experience a "fishy" environment (above). The view is always terrific from the Runge Conservation Nature Center's fire tower.

Owning a good Gun Dog

A dog born to hunt must still be molded into a hunter.

In a stand of flooded hardwood timber, on opening day of duck season, a hunter waits. At his side, sitting on a portable tree stand lashed to a pin oak, a chocolate Lab scans a pewter sky. Suddenly, the dog perks his ears and sits erect. The hunter reads this signal and spies a lone drake wood duck, wings cupped, sailing between the trees.

With the woody at 30 yards and closing, the hunter shoots and the duck tumbles. The Lab leans forward, his attention locked on the downed duck.



By Mark Goodwin, Photos by Cliff White





“Back!” the hunter commands, and the Lab leaps into the water. With chin flat against the surface, the retriever swims hard to the bird. As he picks up the duck and turns back to the hunter, a half dozen green-winged teal buzz past, just over the treetops. The hunter drops one. The Lab pauses to mark where the teal fell, then quickly returns the wood duck to his master.

The hunter grabs the Lab by the back of its collar and pulls the dripping dog back up on the tree stand. He gives the dog a congratulatory pat on its shoulders, takes the bird and praises the dog.

Taking little notice, the Lab sits and leans forward in anticipation of retrieving the teal.

“You like your job, don’t you?” the hunter asks with a smile, and then barks the command, “Back!” The Lab hits the water with a splash and cuts a wake to the second bird.

This is work from a well-trained gun dog—both exciting and practical. For many hunters, a gun dog is an important and enduring investment; one that should not be made lightly. If you have been thinking about buying a gun dog, here are a few things to consider.

Your Disposition

The first question you should ask is not whether a dog is right for you, but whether you are right for a dog. Are you patient, or do you have a short temper? Are you disciplined concerning routines, or do you tend to quit when routines grow old? Do you accept responsibility for your mistakes, or are you prone to place blame elsewhere? Honest answers to these questions will reveal whether owning a gun dog is right for you.

Gun dogs achieve their greatest performance through effective training programs carried out by patient handlers. Patience is central to the training process. When a lesson is new, dogs may have trouble understanding what response an owner wants. Even trained dogs will try to disobey commands. No matter how frustrated you get at such times, it’s crucial to be patient and thoughtful in correcting them. Impatience, leading to anger, is counterproductive to dog training.

It’s important to realize that routines are a primary part of owning a well-trained gun dog. Dogs learn through consistent repetition. Some people enjoy routines; others quickly grow bored with them. If you don’t like routines, then owning a gun dog could prove frustrating.

When a dog makes a mistake, most of the time it’s the owner’s fault. Dog mistakes reflect mistakes in training and handling. If you tend to blame the dog instead of yourself, you probably aren’t ever going to own a great hunting dog.

Prospecting

If you have the personal qualities necessary to own and train a gun dog, then the next step is finding the right dog. Research hunting dog breeds to find the one with the traits and qualities you desire, but don’t buy on breed alone. Many dogs simply don’t have the inherent ability to develop into skilled hunters. Some possess hunting



A dog’s hunting ability depends on its genetics. Research a pup’s bloodlines before committing to it. Keep your dog in top hunting form with year-round training at a local pond or lake (opposite) or in the field with retrieving dummies (above).

characteristics that don't match sportsmen's needs. For example, some dogs are known for hunting close and methodically, while others are known for ranging far and charging hard. You need experience and knowledge to pick a good dog

On a quail hunt, for example, the close-hunting performance of your friend's Brittany spaniel might impress you to the point that you decide you want just such a dog. Many hunters might look in the newspaper, find someone selling Brittany pups, visit the owner, take a fancy to one of the pups and take it home the same day. As likely as not, the dog's hunting abilities will be disappointing.

All Brittany spaniels do not hunt close. Some are bred to compete in field trials. These dogs range far in quest of game. The Brittany might even have come from show stock parents with little hunting instinct. Such a Brit may look nice, but it might not hunt a lick.

Only buy a pup out of parents that are skilled hunters. If both parents are skilled hunters, chances are their pups will have what it takes to develop into good gun dogs. Genetics determine a pup's potential.

If both are available, ask to see the parents work in the field. If only the mother is available, which is often the case, she may be worn down from the rigors of feeding and caring for her litter and not up for a good showing. If so, and if she has had other litters, ask for the names of people

who own pups from one of her previous litters. The success of these pups, if sired by the same dog, will reflect the current litter's potential.

Ask about the parents' temperament, intelligence and hunting desire. How easy were they to train? How far do the parents range when hunting? Are they naturally soft-mouthed when handling game? Are the hips of both parents OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) certified? Many gun dogs, especially larger breeds, suffer from hip dysplasia, a crippling disorder. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Pups from quality parents often run \$500 or more. For that price, you should get quality.

Take the pup home when it's seven to eight weeks old. Taking the pup home sooner will prevent the pup from developing proper canine social skills. Taking the pup home later will increase the likelihood that the pup will have developed a submissive or a dominant position in the litter. Both personality types are undesirable. A submissive pup will have difficulty handling the pressure of training. A dominant pup will often be rebellious and stubborn.

Also never buy a pup that has spent months on end in the kennel with minimal human contact and no opportunity to explore new surroundings. Pups raised under these conditions are almost always nervous. They are tentative and often scared of any new situation. Seldom do they develop into good gun dogs.

You can forego these potential problems by buying a mature gun dog that is already trained. All you have to do is reach deep into your billfold. Prices for trained dogs start at about \$1,500 and go much higher, depending on a dog's pedigree and level of training.

Training

Transforming a quality pup into a dependable hunting dog requires months of training. If you haven't the time nor inclination to do it yourself, you can hire a trainer to do it for you. Fees for training a gun dog range up to \$800 a month. A skilled trainer, working a dog of normal ability, may turn out a pup, ready to hunt, in four to eight months.

If your pup begins training at three to four months old, it may be a competent hunting companion by its first birthday. Even after a careful training program, most gun dogs



Hunting dogs live for the thrill of finding and retrieving game.



A well-trained gun dog is a valuable partner that enriches the hunting experience.

don't really blossom until they have two or three hunting seasons behind them, and only then if they've spent a lot of time hunting.

Though training a gun dog takes time, the time it takes each day to train is actually very little. Fifteen to 20 minutes a day represents a solid training session for an adult dog. Puppies have shorter attention spans. A good training session for a pup may be five minutes or less. The key is being consistent with commands and pursuing an effective training plan.

Regardless of its training, every dog will try its owner. If allowed to disobey a command, a trained gun dog will quickly "forget" what it has been conditioned to do. A gun dog owner must know how to enforce commands. Every hunting trip is a training session in which a dog must respond to a learned command. If the dog responds incorrectly, the dog must be corrected. Disobedience, if allowed, will ruin a trained dog in short order.

Keeping a dog sharp requires year-round training. Many trainers keep live birds with which to train their dogs. Gun dog enthusiasts don't consider the extra work an inconvenience. For them, watching a well-trained gun dog work is as much a part of the hunt as the whistling wings of waterfowl and the cackling flush of a pheasant. ▲

Learning More

Gaining specific knowledge concerning gun dog training involves reading and research. A number of excellent books are available. *Best Way to Train Your Gun Dog: The Delmar Smith Method*, by the late Bill Tarrant, is an excellent general reference on training gun dogs, as is *Gun Dog*, by Richard Wolters. Tarrant wrote two books for learning how to train retrievers. *Hey Pup, Fetch It Up! The Complete Retriever Training Book* and *Training the Versatile Retriever to Hunt Upland Birds* are both excellent sources of information.

The Internet is a great source for gun dog training and handling tips. Type in "training gun dogs," hit "search" and you'll find thousands of how-to listings. You will also find listings of pro trainers who will e-mail answers to your questions. It's exciting to get direct responses from some of the world's top breeders and handlers of gun dogs. Type in "literature training gun dogs" for complete listings of books and periodicals.



Trapping regulations change

Missourians who hunt or trap furbearers should know about several regulation changes effective this year. They include:

- ▲ Bobcat seasons will be open statewide.
- ▲ Furbearer hunting and trapping seasons will run from Nov. 15 through Feb. 15 for striped skunk, raccoon, opossum, badger, red fox, gray fox, coyote, bobcat, muskrat, mink and river otter. Exceptions are otter and muskrat trapping, which remain open through Feb. 20 in Otter Trapping Zone E, and beaver trapping, which runs through March 31.
- ▲ Otter Management Zone E has been enlarged to include the James River Basin in southwestern Missouri.
- ▲ Pelts may be possessed and sold by the taker from November 15 through March 1.
- ▲ Furbearers may be taken by trapping through the use of cable restraints Dec. 15 through Feb. 15 by holders of a Cable Restraint Permit (\$25). Before purchasing the permit, trappers must complete an approved cable restraint training course. For information about course availability, contact the nearest Conservation Department regional service center after May 15.
- ▲ Colony traps with openings no greater than 6 inches high and 6 inches wide set underwater will be legal for taking muskrats.
- ▲ Killing-type (Conibear-type) traps set underwater and colony traps set underwater must be attended and wildlife removed at least once every 48 hours.
- ▲ Foot-enclosing-type traps as well as cage-type traps now may be set within 150 feet of any resident or occupied building in towns of 10,000 or more inhabitants.
- ▲ Traps may be used in conjunction with electronic calls. Electronic calls may be used to pursue and take crows and furbearers during daylight and at night, but without the aid of an artificial light or night-vision equipment.



Senator Kit Bond

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION SUPPORTS WILDLIFE

Sen. Kit Bond received special recognition from the Teaming with Wildlife Coalition in March for his staunch support of the federal State Wildlife Grant (SWG) program.

Besides backing the program from the start, Bond recently went on record in favor of a \$100 million appropriation for the program in Fiscal Year 2005. Missouri receives a share of each year's SWG funding. The program helps states ensure that troubled wildlife species don't become endangered. Other members of Missouri's congressional delegation who support funding at the \$100 million level include Sen. Jim Talent and representatives William Lacy Clay, Karen McCarthy, Kenny Hulshof, Ike Skelton and Dick Gephardt.

TIMBERDOODLERS UNITE

A group of dedicated woodcock hunters formed a conservation organization focusing exclusively on woodcock, also known as "timberdoodles" or "bog-suckers." The number of these migratory birds has dwindled in recent years for unknown reasons.

Woodcock Limited's goal is to work with local, private, state and federal organizations to stabilize and increase woodcock populations through research and habitat and harvest management.

One of the group's goals is to achieve a voluntary limit on woodcock harvests, an idea borrowed from waterfowl conservation groups. Besides being a game species, woodcocks are beloved by birdwatchers for their spectacular aerial mating display, which occurs in late winter and early spring. Information about Woodcock Limited is available from <fjeziore@msn.com> or online at <www.woodcocklimited.org>.



Take-a-kid fishing charity tournament is May 8

The 12th Annual Take A Kid Fishing Tournament will be held May 8 at Table Rock Lake's Port of Kimberling Marina. Proceeds will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The winning adult/youth team will receive \$1,000. The Lost Creek Bass Club will award additional cash prizes for every 20 boats in the tournament. A drawing for a Harley-Davidson Buell Blaster will follow the weigh-in. The entry fee is \$50 per boat. Tournament headquarters is the Kimberling Inn in Kimberling City. For entry forms or other tournament information, call 417/887-1640. For special tournament rates on lodging, call 800/883-5551.



Wetlands named for former commissioners

Former Conservation commissioners Ronald J. Stites of Plattsburg, and Randy Herzog of St. Joseph were honored recently with the dedication of wetland units at Nodaway Valley Conservation Area in northwest Missouri. The commissioners are shown here with their wives, Mary Herzog and Emily Fowler.

GYPSY MOTH TRAPPING RESUMES



Starting this month, forestry officials with the Missouri Department of Conservation will hang triangular orange cardboard traps on trees throughout the state. They are trying to catch gypsy moths, the winged pests that have devastated forests in the eastern and north-central United States.

The gypsy moth is slowly extending its range west and south, with populations increasing in Wisconsin, northeastern Illinois and northern Indiana. Gypsy moths can colonize new areas by laying eggs on motor homes or other vehicles and equipment used by interstate travelers. To prevent a leapfrog infestation from getting out of hand in Missouri, agriculture and forestry officials set out traps baited with female moth pheromones. The discovery of gypsy moths in an area warns of a developing infestation.

Foresters will monitor the traps through August. If you see a trap, please leave it in place. These traps are our first line of defense against these destructive pests.

If you have questions or concerns about gypsy moth traps, call 573/751-5505 or 573/882-9909, ext. 3303, or e-mail < michael.brown@mda.mo.gov > or < foresthealth@mdc.mo.gov >.

Catch Lewis & Clark fever this month

The celebration of the Lewis and Clark expedition's passage through Missouri starts this month and continues into July, with events large and small from St. Louis to the Iowa border. Lewis and Clark events are scheduled for:

- ▲ May 14-23 in St. Charles (Call 636-946-7776 for more information.)
- ▲ May 22-26 in Washington, Mo. (636/239-2715, ext. 102)
- ▲ May 22 in Hermann (800/932-8687)
- ▲ May 26 and 27 in New Haven (573/237-3830)
- ▲ May 28-30 at the Missouri National Guard Ike Skelton Training Site, Jefferson City (800/726-8852)
- ▲ June 1-3 in Jefferson City (573/634-6482)
- ▲ June 4-6 at Franklin Island Conservation Area (800/726-8852)
- ▲ June 5 at Cooper's Landing, Easley (573/657-2544, <www.cooperslanding.net>)
- ▲ June 4-14 in Boonville (660/882-2721 or 660/882-7977)
- ▲ June 1-30 at Arrow Rock State Park, featuring an exhibit focusing on wildlife and the Corps of Discovery. (660-837-3330, <www.mostateparks.com/arrowrock.htm>)
- ▲ June 9-12 in Glasgow (660/338-2576)
- ▲ June 12-13 in Brunswick (660/548-9771)
- ▲ June 16 in Waverly (660/493-2314)
- ▲ June 23 at Fort Osage in Sibley (816-650-5737, <www.historicfortosage.com>)
- ▲ June 26-27 in Weston (888/635-7457)
- ▲ July 3-4 in Kansas City (800/858-1749, <www.journey4th.org>)
- ▲ July 4 at Lewis & Clark State Park, Rushville (816/579-5564)
- ▲ July 5-11 in St. Joseph (800/604-4600)

An excellent source of information about Lewis and Clark bicentennial events in Missouri is <www.lewisandclark.net.>



Accessibility information is just a click away

Would you like to find a wheelchair-accessible fishing dock or boat ramp on a lake or stream near home? How about a waterfowl hunting blind that is manageable for a physically challenged youth, or a fully accessible nature center?

Locating such facilities is as simple as going online and visiting <www.missouriconservation.org/accessibility>. There you can search for different facility types in a comprehensive database of hundreds of conservation areas by region or county. Access to accessibility has never been easier.

One example of a highly accessible spot is Lake Jacomo south of Blue Springs in Jackson County. This 970-acre area has camping, fishing, hiking trails, picnicking, parking, an education center and an archery range accessible to wheelchair users. For more information, call 816/655-6254 or 816/795-8200.



On your mark! Set! Drift!

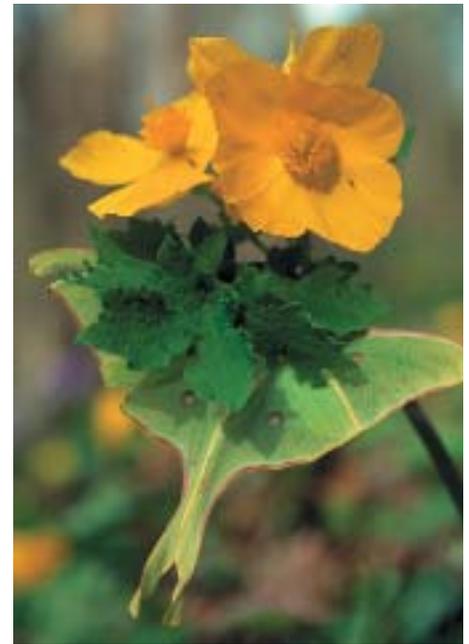
If you spend time on the Missouri River downstream from the Chariton County community of Brunswick, watch for yellow dugout canoes. Look sharply, though; the boats are only 14 inches long.

The boats, carved from untreated landscape timbers, are contestants in an innovative education project sponsored by the River Valley Development Committee. To motivate the students to learn more about the river's recreational and economic value, the non-profit group gave a bright yellow dugout to each of 124 school classes in 30 communities, from Brunswick down to Augusta in St. Charles County. In all, more than 2,600 students are involved. Each class decorated its boat and placed a message in a 35-mm film canister in a special compartment in the stern.



The boats were launched *en masse* April 24 at Brunswick. Carried along by the river's 3- to 4-mph current, the boats could make the 184-mile journey to Augusta in as little as two days. The group's volunteers were waiting at Augusta to spot the winner of the "race."

If you see a dugout bobbing toward the Gulf of Mexico, pick it up and use the note in the film canister to contact its student owners to let them know how far their boat traveled.



MAY: the month for shady places

May is the month of frilly forest blossoms. If you have a shady place on your property, you can mimic a forest garden with a *Grow Native!* Shady Haven design.

The Shady Haven design includes small trees and shrubs, such as Eastern redbud and Indian cherry, that provide food and cover for wildlife. These plants are suitable for partial or high shade areas that allow some light to filter through. Bright, delicate species such as sweet William, Solomon's seal and woodland spiderwort create a serene atmosphere for you and a natural habitat for birds, butterflies and small wildlife. Add a bench for relaxation in your cool refuge.

Plants on the Shady Haven design include:

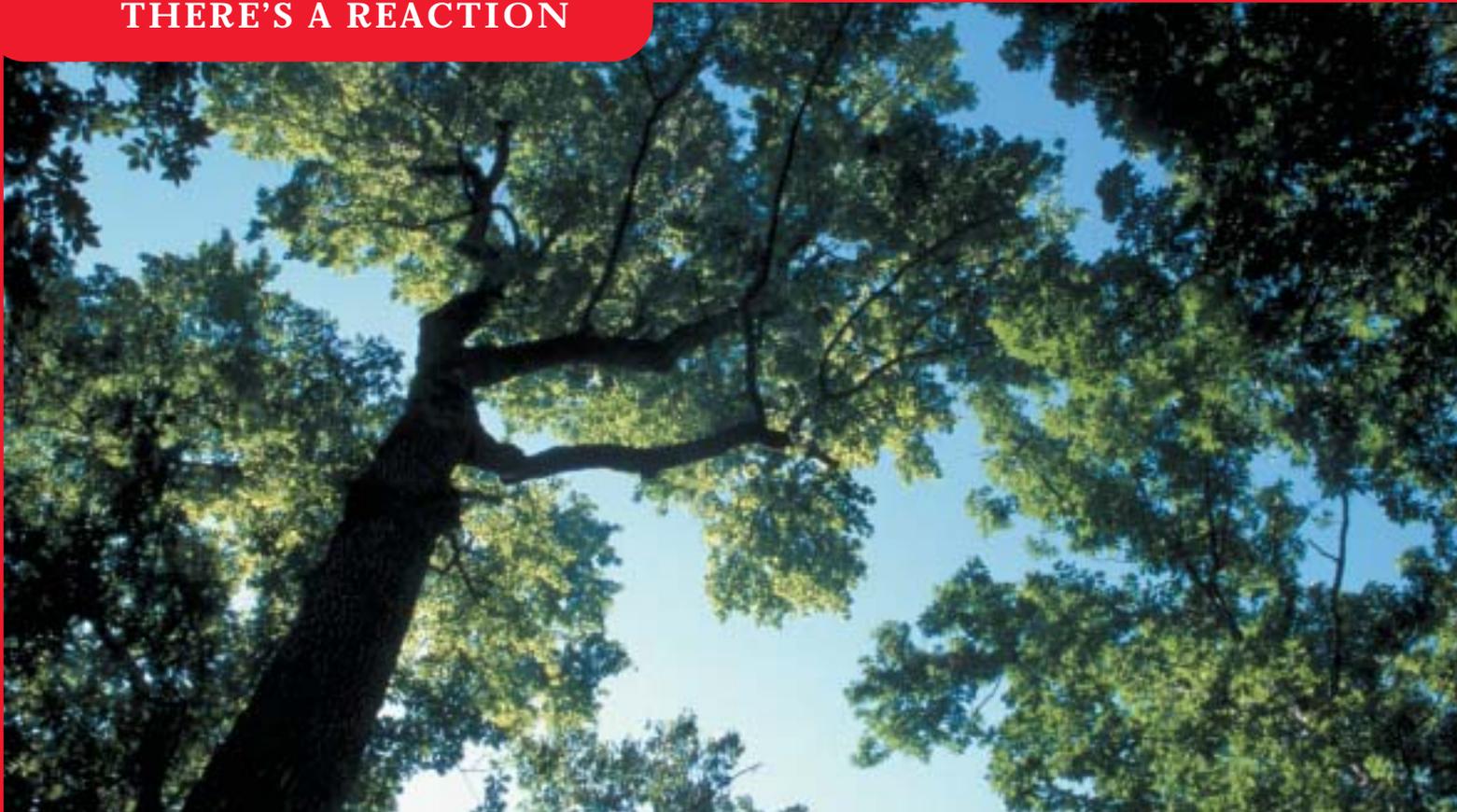
- ✂* Wild sweet William
- ✂* Woodland spiderwort
- ✂* Wild ginger
- ✂* Celandine poppy
- ✂* Solomon's seal
- ✂* Wafer ash
- ✂* Wild hydrangea
- ✂* Eastern redbud
- ✂* Indian cherry

For more information about the Shady Haven design and landscaping with Missouri's native plants, visit the *Grow Native!* web site at <www.grownative.org>, or write for a home landscaping guide from *Grow Native!* P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102. — *Bonnie Chasteen*

FOR EVERY ACTION



THERE'S A REACTION



Together, we can keep Missouri thriving. To find out how, visit online at:
missouriconservation.org

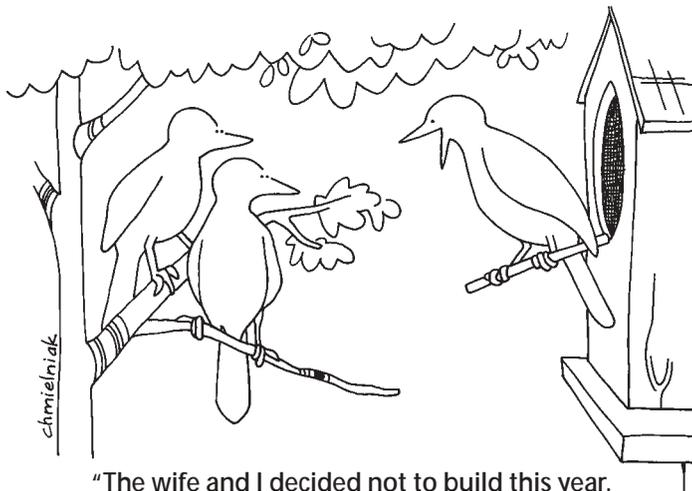


Outdoor Calendar

HUNTING	OPEN	CLOSE
Coyotes	5/10/04	3/31/05
Crow	11/1/04	3/3/05
Deer, Archery	to be announced	
Deer, Firearms	11/13/04	to be announced
(permits and regulations available in the summer)		
Groundhog	5/10/04	12/15/04
Squirrels	5/22/04	2/15/05
Rabbits	10/1/04	2/15/05
Turkey (spring)	4/19/04	5/9/04
FISHING		
Black Bass (most southern streams)	5/22/04	2/28/05
Trout Parks	3/1/04	10/31/04
Bullfrog & Green Frog	Sunset 6/30/04	Midnight 10/31/04
Nongame Fish Snagging	3/15/04	5/15/04

For complete information about seasons, limits, methods and restrictions, consult the *Wildlife Code* and the current summaries of *Missouri Hunting and Trapping Regulations* and *Missouri Fishing Regulations*, the *Fall Deer and Turkey Hunting Information*, *Waterfowl Hunting Digest* and the *Migratory Bird Digest*. To find this information on our Web site go to <<http://www.missouriconservation.org/regs/>>.

The Conservation Department's computerized point-of-sale system allows you to purchase or replace your permits through local vendors or by phone. The toll-free number is 800/392-4115. Allow 10 days for delivery of telephone purchases. To purchase permits online go to <<http://www.wildlifelicense.com/mo/>>.



"The wife and I decided not to build this year. We found ourselves this nice little fixer-upper instead."



Columbia Bottom open house set

Missourians can visit the new education and visitor center at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area during an open house from 2 to 7 p.m. May 27. Other features of interest include outdoor exploration stations, a fishing pier, hiking trails, boardwalk, river access, wetland areas and an elevated viewing platform overlooking the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. The area is at 801 Strodman Road north of I-270 in northern St. Louis County. For more information, call 636/441-4554.

AGENT NOTEBOOK

Almost every weekend

during the summer I find myself visiting with various people on Ozark streams. Warm weather draws a lot of Missourians to our waterways. Some go there to enjoy a leisurely float. Others like to fish, camp or boat. Most of the time, everyone gets along just fine. Occasionally, however, conflicts arise between people who only want to enjoy the river in their own way.

Most of the time, the conflict is caused by someone who doesn't respect the rights of others. I hear complaints of canoeists floating too close to anglers, of jet boat operators blowing by canoeists, and of people who feel the outdoors is the perfect place to express themselves in loud, offensive language.

Applying the *Golden Rule* would eliminate many of the conflicts among river users. Missouri is offering us warm summer weather with beautiful places to enjoy it. Why ruin our day or someone else's day with rude behavior? If everyone respected everyone else's right to outdoor recreation, we could all enjoy the wonderful resources Missouri has to offer.

Conservation agents are often asked to intervene when someone's behavior crosses the line. If the action is unintentional and not the result of meanness or ill will, we'll try to deal with it with a friendly reminder. However, if a violation of state statutes or regulations occurs, conservation agents will issue a citation or make an arrest. Either is guaranteed to spoil a beautiful day for the perpetrator.

— Dennis Twyman





Program Schedule

Television the way Nature intended!

Broadcast Stations

- Cape Girardeau** UPN "The Beat" WQTV / Sat. 8:30 a.m., Sundays 7 a.m.
- Columbia** KOMU (Ch 8 NBC) / Sundays 11 a.m.
- Hannibal** KHQA (Ch 7 CBS) / Saturdays 11 a.m.
- Joplin** KOZJ (Ch 26 PBS) / Saturdays 2 p.m.
- Kansas City** KCPT (Ch 19 PBS) / Sundays 7 a.m.
- Kirksville** KTVO (Ch 3 ABC) / Saturdays 5 a.m.
- St. Joseph** KQTV (Ch 2 ABC) / Weekends, check local listings for times
- St. Louis** KSDK (Ch 5 NBC) / Sundays, 4:30 a.m.
- Springfield** KOZK (Ch 21 PBS) / Saturdays 2 p.m.
- Warrensburg** KMOS (Ch 6 PBS) / Sundays 6:30 p.m.

Cable and Low Power Stations

- Branson** Vacation Channel / Fri., Sat. 8 p.m.
- Brentwood** Brentwood City TV, BTV-10 / Daily 4 a.m. & 5 p.m.
- Cape Girardeau** Charter Cable Ed. Ch. 23 / Thursdays 6 p.m.
- Chillicothe** Time Warner Cable Channel 6 / Thursdays 7 p.m.
- Hillsboro** JCTV / Mondays 12 p.m. & 6 p.m.
- Independence** City 7 / Thurs. 2 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. & Sundays 8 p.m.
- Joplin** KGCS / Sundays 6 p.m.
- Mexico** Mex-TV / Fridays 6:30 p.m., Saturdays 6:30 p.m. & Sundays 6:30 p.m.
- Noel** TTV / Fridays 4:30 p.m.
- O'Fallon** City of O'Fallon Cable / Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
- Parkville** City of Parkville / First and third Tuesdays of the month 6:30 p.m.
- Perryville** PVTV / Mondays 6 p.m.
- Poplar Bluff** City Cable Channel 2 / Tuesdays 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.
- Raymore** Govt. Access-Channel 7 / Various, check local listings for times
- Raytown** City of Raytown Cable / Wed. 10 a.m. & Saturdays 8 p.m.
- St. Charles** City of St. Charles-Ch 20 / Tues. 5 p.m. and Wed. 10 a.m.
- St. Louis** Charter Communications / Saturdays 10:30 a.m.
- St. Louis** City TV 10 / Mondays 11:30 a.m., Wednesdays 3:30 p.m.
- St. Louis** Cooperating School Districts / Wednesdays 9 a.m.
- St. Louis** DHTV-21 / Mondays 10:30 a.m.
- St. Louis** KPTN-LP/TV58 / Thursdays 10 a.m.
- St. Peters** City of St. Peters Cable / Various, check local listings for times
- Ste. Genevieve** Public TV / Fridays 1 p.m., 6 p.m. & 12 midnight
- Springfield** KBLE36 / 5 times a week, check local listings for times
- Sullivan** Fidelity Cable-Channel 6 / Wed. 11 a.m. and Fri. 7 p.m.
- Union** TRC-TV7 / Tuesdays 3 p.m.
- West Plains** OCTV / Mondays 6:30 p.m.

Meet our Contributors



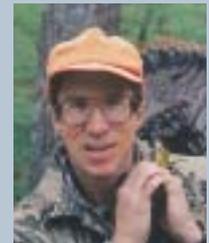
Marvin Boyer is a fisheries management biologist in the Conservation Department's St. Louis Region. He grew up in rural Jefferson County, and hunting and fishing have always been his favorite pastimes. He said spending time in the outdoors with their three children is providing a lifetime of enjoyment for him and his wife, Jennifer.

Kathy Cavender is the manager of Runge Conservation Nature Center. She was born and raised in Westphalia, a small town just east of Jefferson City. Kathy attributes her love for the outdoors to her rural roots and is thrilled to share her passion with visitors to the nature center.



Rod Doolen is a science teacher at Clearwater High School in Piedmont. He likes hunting, fishing, hiking, canoeing and just being outdoors. He has worked in the West for the U.S. Forest Service, fighting wildfires. He describes himself as a strong proponent of natural resource stewardship.

Mark Goodwin teaches biology at Jackson Senior High School. He spends much of his free time training hunting dogs. Mark said he plans to open a small kennel and turn his interest in dogs into a second career after he retires from the school system.



Chris Riggert is a fisheries biologist with the Conservation Department's Stream Unit. He is responsible for administering the *Stash Your Trash* program. He is an avid angler and enjoys spending quiet evenings on a small pond in his belly boat. He lives in Boonville with his wife, Jeanine, and two dogs.

Twenty-five year Conservation Department employee **Ginny Wallace** coordinates the *No MOre Trash!* program in partnership with the Department of Transportation, and the Missouri Master Naturalist volunteer program. Ginny and her husband, Mervin, live on a 47-acre farm in Cole County, where they raised two sons, Marcus and Derek.





Floating

Many Missourians love to spend summer days relaxing in a canoe, watching the turtles and kingfishers along the river and letting the current carry them downstream. — *Cliff White*